

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

**Please amend the Specification as follows. Insertions are shown underlined while deletions are ~~struck-through~~ or are [[double bracketed]].**

The paragraph beginning at page 5, line 20:

The present inventors have been continuously studying on the provision of water absorption resistance to newsprint by external addition of sizing agents and have already made patent applications as follows. There is described a method of forming a coating layer containing a composition to control water absorptivity mainly composed of component A, component B and component C on base paper for printing (particularly newsprint). Component A: modified starch or starch; component B: at least one polyacrylamide selected from nonionic polyacrylamides, cationic polyacrylamides having a tertiary amine group, cationic polyacrylamides having a quaternary ammonium group, and amphoteric polyacrylamides; and component C: an anionic copolymer of a monomer having a weight average molecular weight of 1,000 to 3,000,000 and a hydrophobic substituent having 6 to 10 carbon atoms and a monomer having a carboxyl group or a sulfonic acid group (see ~~patent reference 1~~Japanese Patent No. 2939971). There is described a method of manufacturing a neutral newsprint, in which a ketene dimer sizing agent and a paper surface treating agent are externally added using a gate roll coater to neutral newsprint in which calcium carbonate is used as a filler, after which the coated paper is passed through a soft calender at a surface temperature of 50°C or higher to attain the sizing degree (see ~~patent reference 2~~Japanese Patent No. 2980833). There is described a method in which a coating layer containing an absorptivity controlling composition mainly comprised of two components, component A and component B, is formed on base paper for printing (particularly newsprint base paper) to achieve a droplet water absorption degree of 10 to 1,000 seconds. Component A: at least one polyacrylamide selected from nonionic polyacrylamides, cationic polyacrylamides, and amphoteric polyacrylamides; and component B: an anionic copolymer of a monomer having a hydrophobic substituent and a monomer having a carboxyl group and/or a sulfonic acid group (see ~~patent reference 3~~Japanese Patent No. 3093965). There is described a method in which a coating layer containing a surface sizing agent mainly comprising three components consisting of the following component A, component B, and component C, or two components mainly comprising component B and component C at a ratio by solid weight of each component of

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A:B:C = 0-80:95-20:1-10 is formed on newsprint base paper. Component A: at least one polyacrylamide selected from nonionic polyacrylamides, cationic polyacrylamides, and amphoteric polyacrylamides; component B: an anionic ammonium salt of a copolymer of a monomer having a hydrophobic substituent and a monomer having a carboxyl group, and component C: at least one resin acid selected from dehydroabietic acid, abietic acid, dihydroabietic acid, pimaric acid, neopimaric acid, isopimaric acid, levopimaric acid, and palustrine, or rosin containing these resin acids (see ~~patent-reference-4~~Japanese Patent No. 3303291).

The paragraph beginning at page 7, line 11:

There are disclosed newsprint for offset printing in which base paper is coated with an aqueous solution containing a surface treating agent and dried, characterized in that said surface treating agent comprises at least a polyacrylamide polymer and an epoxy water-resistant agent and/or a polyvalent metal compound water-resistant agent (see ~~patent-reference-5~~Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 10-259591); newsprint for offset printing in which base paper containing an internally added filler is coated with a surface treating agent, characterized in that said surface treating agent contains a polyvinyl alcohol copolymer having a silanol group (see ~~patent-reference-6~~Japanses Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 11-21790); newsprint for offset printing in which base paper is coated with a surface treating agent and dried, characterized in that said surface sizing agent mainly comprises a synthetic resin latex having a gel content of 90% or more by weight (see ~~patent referencee-7~~Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 11-50393); newsprint for offset printing in which base paper is coated with a surface treating agent and dried, characterized in that said surface treating agent mainly comprises a copolymer latex and contains a release agent (see ~~patent-reference-8~~Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. Hei 11-158795); newsprint for offset printing in which both sides of base paper are coated with a surface treating agent and dried, characterized in that said surface treating agent mainly comprises an acrylic alkali swellable synthetic resin latex (see ~~patent-reference-9~~Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2000-17597); newsprint for offset printing in which both sides of base paper are coated with a surface treating agent and dried, characterized in that said surface treating agent mainly comprises (a) starch or modified starch and (b) a hydrophobic acrylic surface sizing agent containing butyl (meth)acrylate and/or (meth)acryl 2-ethylhexyl as monomer

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components and having a glass transition temperature of 10°C or lower, the ratio of said starch component to said hydrophobic acrylic surface sizing agent being in the range of 100:3 to 100:30 by solid weight (see ~~patent reference 10~~Japanese Patent Application Laid-open No. 2002-294588).